

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 9, and 10 are pending in the present application. Claims 2-8 and 11-24 are canceled. Claims 1 and 10 are amended. The Examiner has indicated that the above claim amendments will place the claims for this application in condition for allowance. Applicants have approved of these amendments to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants are not conceding that the canceled claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments are only for facilitating expeditious issuance of the application. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications. Support for the amendments to the claims is located at least in the previous draft of the claims and in the specification on page 3, lines 3-18; on page 7, line 1, through page 9, line 23; on page 12, line 16, through page 13, line 14; on page 16, line 22, through page 18, line 14; on page 19, lines 1-24; on page 29, lines 12-27; on page 31, lines 13-26; and in **Figures 6 and 12**. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. Telephone and Email Correspondence

Applicants thank Examiner Zhe and her supervisor for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives during the June 2008 telephone and email correspondences. Applicants proposed claim amendments on June 20, 2008 for expeditious issuance of the application. Examiner Zhe and her supervisor have proposed adding dependent claims 7 and 8 to independent claim 1 of these proposed claim amendments to place the claims in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants have amended the claims as proposed by the Examiner.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 7-11, 13, 14, and 20-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, which applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended the claims to overcome this rejection. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 7-11, 13, 14, and 20-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103, Obviousness

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 7-11, 13, 14, and 20-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *To Schedule of To Execute: Decision Support and Performance Implications*, by

Hamidzadeh, Atif, and Ramamritham, Copy Right, 1999 (hereafter *Atif*) in view of *Baker et al.* (Publication No. US 2005/0065826, 3/24/2005) (hereafter *Baker*). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended the claims as proposed by the Examiner to place claims 1, 9, and 10 in condition for allowance. Claims 2-8 and 11-24 are canceled. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 7-11, 13, 14, and 20-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

IV. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited references and is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: June 30, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

/Gerald H. Glanzman/

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